

CHARTER OF THE MARINE MAMMAL COMMISSION'S  
COMMITTEE OF SCIENTIFIC ADVISORS ON MARINE MAMMALS

I. Official Designation

The Committee is officially designated as the “Committee of Scientific Advisors on Marine Mammals” by section 203(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. § 1403(a), and shall hereinafter be referred to as the “Committee.”

II. Authority

Establishment of this Committee is mandated by section 203 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, 16 U.S.C. § 1403.

III. Objectives and Scope of Activities

In accordance with section 203 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Committee is directed to provide the Commission with scientific expertise on matters relating to the protection and conservation of marine mammals. Consultation with the Committee is statutorily mandated under the Act. The existence of the Committee and the availability of its expertise are essential to the effective and lawful performance of the Commission's responsibilities under the Act. The duration of the Committee's existence is coextensive with that of the Commission.

IV. Duties

The Committee, among other things, advises the Marine Mammal Commission on all studies and recommendations made by the Commission, on research programs conducted under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and on all applications for permits to take and/or import marine mammals pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

V. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Committee reports to the Chairman of the Marine Mammal Commission and the other Commissioners.

VI. Support

Support for the activities of the Committee is provided through the Commission and its staff.

VII. Estimated Operating Costs and Staff Years

The annual operating cost of the Committee is currently estimated to be \$223,900 and 1.2 person-years of staff time.

VIII. Designated Federal Officer

The Commission's General Counsel serves as the Designated Federal Officer. The

Commission's Executive Director serves as the Alternate Designated Federal Officer. The Officer will approve or call all of the Committee's meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the Officer determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Chairman of the Commission.

IX. Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Committee meets at least once annually.

X. Duration

The Committee is a continuing committee.

XI. Termination

The Committee will not terminate during the period covered by this charter renewal.

XII. Membership and Designation

As specified in section 203(a) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act, the Committee consists of nine scientists knowledgeable in marine ecology and marine mammal affairs. The members are appointed by the Chairman of the Commission after consulting with the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Chairman of the National Academy of Sciences.

XIII. Subcommittees

The Marine Mammal Commission has authority to create subcommittees. However, no such subcommittees currently are in place.

XIV. Recordkeeping

Records of the Committee shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2. These records are available for public inspection and copying, subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552.

XV. Filing Date

This renewal is being filed and becomes effective on 19 December 2011.